

## Summary of the Fairfax 50+ Planning Process

Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors, with support from the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging and the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, developed a *50+ Action Plan* in 2007 in response to the projected increase in the number of older adults over the next decades. The 2007 plan helped to ensure the needs of older adults were considered in the county's planning processes.

In 2013, the 50+ Committee of the Board of Supervisors decided to continue the county's progress in becoming an aging-friendly community and to update the plan. Supervisor Pat Herrity, Chair of the 50+ Committee, asked the Commission on Aging to conduct a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis that focused on how to accomplish that goal. The Commission submitted to the Board a list of potential initiatives under the topics of Healthy Lifestyles, Services, and Housing & Transportation.

The Board of Supervisors then initiated a community dialogue on how to make Fairfax County a more aging-friendly community. During the summer of 2013, the Board held 15 community forums across the county. Some were held with non-English speaking residents in cooperation with Korean, Vietnamese, Latino and Arabic community groups.

Over 750 residents participated in the forums and many more submitted comments online or over the phone.

Supervisor Pat Herrity appointed a Steering Committee to develop a draft plan for the Board of Supervisors.

The Steering Committee created five subcommittees to review the proposed initiatives from the Commission on Aging and the ideas from county residents in order to develop specific initiatives to propose to the 50+ Steering Committee.

- Transportation
- Housing
- Safe & Healthy Community
- Community Engagement
- Services for Older Adults and Family Caregivers

The 50+ Steering Committee and each subcommittee included representatives from community groups, nonprofits, business and county agencies.

### **50+ Action Plan 2014 Guiding Principles**

The Steering Committee and Supervisor Herrity developed the following Guiding Principles for the subcommittees to use as they developed initiatives to be considered for the 50+ Plan.

**Initiatives should be:**

- 1. Attainable**
- 2. Affordable**
- 3. Actionable within the next five years**

***Whenever possible, initiatives should encourage community capacity building.***

The initiatives submitted by the subcommittees were reviewed by the 50+ Steering Committee and are ready for public comment. The draft plan will be posted on the county's Older Adults Web page on April 15 for 4 weeks. After comments from the public and from county department heads are reviewed, the final draft will be sent to the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors expects to review and finalize the *2014 Fairfax 50+ Action Plan* in early summer 2014.